



Be Gender-sensitive and Gender-responsive with Your Vote

The Board of ENFiD adopted an across the board inclusion of Gender Sensitivity in its programs, projects and activities. Included in this framework is sensitivity on the condition and situation of WOMEN to be on equal footing with MEN and the observance and respect of the rights of Lesbians, Gays, Trans-genders and Bi-sexuals (LGTB).

The gang rape of an Australian Missionary eventually murdered, is repeatedly used as an amusing story in campaign sorties by a Filipino presidential aspirant who jokingly wished he were the first to have raped the missionary, at which point the crowds break into raucous laughter.

Such a sordid scenario where rape, a sexual violence, a crime against humanity is trivialized drew livid reactions and anger from rape victims, humanitarian organizations, foreign legations and international news media. Rape is a crime of high order based on international agreements such as the 1949 Geneva Convention and the CEDAW.

Sexual assault and rape are extremely traumatizing, with life-long repercussions for the victim's health and well-being. The prevalence of violence against women has adverse effects on economic growth and development. Estimates of the economic costs of gender-based violence in terms of lost of productivity as well as increased health care costs range from 1.2 to 2 percent of GDP, which amounts to as much as many governments of developing countries spend on primary education.

Because such crass demeanor by a high government official undermines ENFiD's objectives towards the fundamental human right to be free from sexual violence, ENFiD therefore, strongly condemns treating lightly or the belittling of women as rape victims as topic to gain macho acceptance.

On 8 May, Mother's Day, in the final run-up of the Philippine Presidential Election voters can gift their mothers with a vote to elect the candidate who appreciates and gives importance to WOMEN and their contribution to the country's social and economic growth.

Consider: There are over 54.3mm Filipinos registered voters in the 2016 Philippine Presidential election, 27.9 million are women. Of this, more than 1.33 million are Overseas Voters.





CONNECTING FILIPINOS IN EUROPE

We join the Filipino people in condemning the utter disregard to WOMANHOOD and the general attitude that women are mere chattel. Violence against women is a social (economy, health, welfare, politics) problem and not a private problem of each individual woman or a family. Violence against women perpetuates gender inequality and stands as an obstacle to achievement of equality, development and peace.

Signed:

Board of Directors The European Network of Filipino Diaspora (ENFiD)
2 May 2016

